FACULTY

Steve Snyder joined the Japanese studies department at Middlebury in 2005. His teaching and research focus on modern and contemporary Japanese fiction, but he spends much of his time translating Japanese novels and short stories, including, to date, works by Ryu Murakami, Natsuo Kirino, Akira Yoshimura, Miri Yu, and the Nobel laureate Kenzaburo Oe. He is currently translating works by Yoko Ogawa for *The New Yorker* magazine and Picador. He claims to feel no shame in assigning a number of his own translations for this course, which will also draw on research from his current study of translation and the publishing industries in Japan, the U.S., and France.

John McWilliams, College professor of the humanities, was for many years Middlebury's Abernethy Professor of American Literature. He has recently been teaching the survey course in American art for the art history department, as well as courses in religion and in American intellectual history. He has written books on James Fenimore Cooper, on Hawthorne and Melville, on the American epic, and on New England culture. Married to Professor Mireille Barbaud of the French department, he is the father of six children, whose varied needs, together with his own love of teaching, annually persuade him to postpone retirement.

Matthew Landis has been in the biology department at Middlebury since 2001. Over the past 13 years, he has used extensive fieldwork and computer modeling to unravel the complex responses of forests to disturbances, such as windstorms, logging, and fire. His work has focused on a variety of tree species, including the rare and valuable big-leaf mahogany in Brazil, the spruce and balsam fir of the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and pitch pine in the barrens of Long Island New York. His long-standing interest in the forests of the Green Mountains has found an outlet in research that attempts to understand and anticipate the response of Vermont forests to climate change.

Kirsten Hoving is the Charles A. Dana Professor of the History of Art. She has taught at Middlebury for 25 years, specializing in modern art and the history of photography. An avid student of photography, she has attended numerous workshops at the Santa Fe Photography Workshops, including, most recently, Poetic Vision, with photographer Keith Carter.

Matthew Dickinson has taught in Middlebury College's political science department for eight years, specializing in the presidency and presidential elections. He is the author of *Bitter Harvest: FDR, Presidential Power, and the Growth of the Presidential Branch* and has published numerous articles on the presidency, presidential decision-making, and presidential advisers. His latest endeavor, growing out of his undergraduate presidency course, is an election year "newsletter" that is e-mailed to a steadily expanding list of recipients. In it, he takes particular delight in correcting the misleading election-year coverage found in both the mainstream media and the "blogosphere."

Oliver Larry Yarbrough is the Tillinghast Professor of Religion and chair of the religion department. He has been at Middlebury since 1983, teaching courses in Jewish scriptures, Christian scriptures, early Judaism, and early Christianity. His most recent publications have dealt with Jerusalem in early Christian theology and politics and Paul's collection for the poor in Jerusalem. He is currently editing for publication the lectures given at the most recent Scott Symposium (Engaging Passions: The Death of Jesus and its Legacies) and writing a commentary on the Passion Narratives. Larry is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College, Cambridge University (MA), Emory University (MDiv), and Yale University (PhD).

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Alumni College at Bread Loaf, 2008

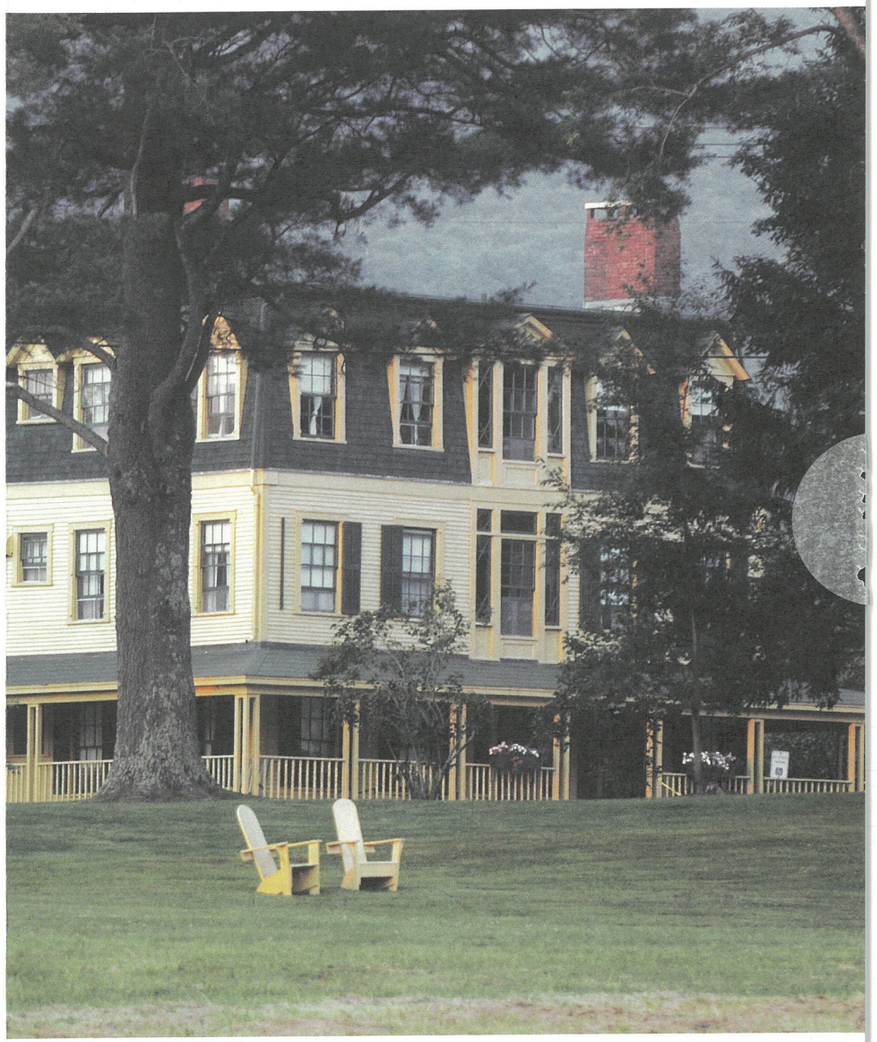
There are few places in this country more congenial for fellowship and the pursuit of knowledge than the Alumni College at Bread Loaf. For more than three decades, alumni, parents, and friends of Middlebury College have come to the mountain campus to take courses with leading faculty at the College, to renew old acquaintances and begin new friendships, and to enjoy the late-summer beauty of Vermont.

This year's catalogue of courses is varied in its geographic and temporal concerns. For those of you who want to understand the deep background on this year's most remarkable domestic story, the race for the presidency, there is a course on presidential elections. Another course reaches across time to explore how American artists have imagined the American landscape. Yet another course delves more deeply into Western civilization and examines early Christian representations of Jesus. A fourth course swings across the globe to focus on the novel and modern Japanese culture. Finally, for those who desire a classroom without walls, there are two offerings, one on Vermont forests and climate change and another on photography and the inspiration of Robert Frost's poetry.

Photos by Ed Brown

Middlebury

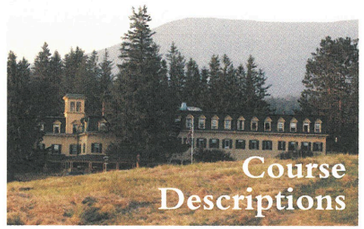
Join alumni, parents, and friends for an extraordinary learning experience in the beautiful Green Mountains



Endless Learning

Alumni College XXXIII

August 27–31, 2008



1. Gangsters and Geishas: Japanese Culture through the Contemporary Novel

Steve Snyder
Associate Professor of Japanese

In the past two decades, the focus of Western political and economic interest in East Asia has shifted to China, while the once-feared Japan has been recast as a relatively benign exporter of chic clothing, food, and baseball players—reflecting a marked rise in what the critic Douglas McGray has called Japan's "Gross National Cool." This course will look at the literary aspect of this transformation and the ways works of translated fiction get onto our bookshelves and into our consciousness. We will be reading samples from recent Japanese popular fiction—a thriller, a mystery, and a rather odd romance—as well as things more highbrow. The novelist Haruki Murakami is currently one of the most successful writers on the planet, with bestsellers in dozens of countries—his *Kafka on the Shore* was named one of the top five novels of 2005 by the *New York Times*. What explains Murakami's enormous success with readers overseas? What does contemporary Japanese fiction as a whole tell us about life in the world's second-largest economic power? And what can an examination of the processes of translating and marketing fiction abroad tell us about the nature of global culture markets?

2. American Landscapes

John McWilliams
Professor of Humanities

The landscape, as Emerson insisted, is not a fixed place "out there," but is constantly being reformed by each movement, and each choice, of our eyes. The same is true of the "landscapes" that have been created as hypothetically changeless records by painters and photographers. We will explore selected paintings by Cole, Church, Homer, Inness, and Hopper, and photographs by Jackson, Adams, and Stieglitz. We will discuss the difficulties and advantages, aesthetic and conceptual, that arise when "the American landscape" ceases to be conceived as insight into primeval nature (our "virgin land") and becomes peopled in imagination and in fact. A visit to the Middlebury Museum of Art to see the College's collection of landscape paintings and photos is planned.

3. Vermont Forests and the Changing Climate: Past, Present, and Future

Matthew Landis
Associate in Science Instruction in Biology

The unprecedented changes in climate over the coming century have the potential to change Vermont forests dramatically. How will they respond? How will climate interact with the other forces that shape forests, such as land management, natural disturbances, invasive species, and air pollution? This hands-on course will focus on these questions through off-trail hiking and scrambling as we explore a variety of Green Mountain forests. Over four days, we will visit the wild, cold spruce-fir forests of the high terrain, the maple-beech-birch forests that dominate the Green Mountains, and tiny pockets of warm-climate oak and hickory forests that formerly covered the Champlain Valley. We will spend four days developing our skills as ecological detectives to read the clues provided by the trees, including tree rings, stumps, and other evidence, to uncover how the forests around Middlebury have changed over time, and how they may change in the future.

4. Photographing Frost: Envisioning Poetry through the Camera Lens (Limited to 15 participants)

Kirsten Hoving
Charles A. Dana Professor of History of Art and Architecture

In this studio workshop course, we will use photography to examine and interpret selected poems by Robert Frost. With the beautiful environs of Bread Loaf as our subject and the poems of Frost as our inspiration, we will look for ways to use photography to envision images and metaphors we find in poems. Students should provide their own cameras and have a thorough working knowledge of how to use them. Those people using digital cameras should bring a laptop and know how to download, resize, and save files to a jump drive or CD. We will make a daily run to Middlebury for students who are shooting film. Please note: This is not a course about how to use your new digital camera. It *is* a course about how to see creatively, how to go beyond the bounds of simple record making, and how to foster a poetic vision in our photographs by thinking about the meanings and metaphors of Frost's poetry.

5. The 2008 Presidential Election: What Can Political Science Teach Us?

Matt Dickinson
Professor of Political Science

We are in the middle of one of the most exciting presidential elections in recent memory, as indicated by the overwhelming mainstream media coverage, higher than normal turnout in the nominating contests, and intense debate by the "punditocracy." Unfortunately, much of this coverage and analyses is characterized by misleading assumptions, incomplete data, and questionable conclusions. In this course, we draw on political science research to reexamine some basic issues related to the 2008 election. What determines election outcomes? How much do voters know? Is the media biased? Is the selection process in need of reform? The goal is to substitute more dispassionate analysis for the often partisan-driven commentary that dominates media coverage.

6. Early Christian Art: From the Catacombs to the Cathedrals

Larry Yarbrough
Pardon Tillinghast Professor of Religion

Though surveying a wide range of art in the early Christian movement, the course will focus on representations of Jesus. The driving question will be how texts and images exist in creative tension. We will see, for example, that although the earliest texts and liturgies emphasize the death and resurrection of Jesus, most early art represents him as "the good shepherd." As we move through the earliest period to the time of the emperor Justinian (100–600 CE), we will observe the ways models for the representation of Jesus change dramatically. We will read texts from scripture, liturgies, and sermons; the images we examine will range from graffiti from the Palatine to the frescoes of the catacombs and the mosaics of Ravenna and Rome.

REGISTRATION FORM

Alumni College XXXIII / August 27–31, 2008

Name: _____

Class: _____ Number of Alumni Colleges you have attended: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____

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Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

My first choice is #_____ My second choice is #_____

Spouse/guest first choice is #_____ Their second choice is #_____

Special housing needs? _____

_____

Fee

$525 all-inclusive cost per person (tuition, books, lodging, meals, and evening entertainment at Bread Loaf).

Method of payment

- ❒ Check payable to "Middlebury College" enclosed
- ❒ Visa ❒ MasterCard
- ❒ Online at: http://www.middlebury.edu/forms/alumni/BREADLOAF_form.php

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____ CSV# _____ 3-digit code on back

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Alumni and Parent Programs Office
McKinley House
5340 Middlebury College
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Need more information, please contact Glenna Emilo in the Alumni and Parent Programs Office at 802.443.5335 or emilo@middlebury.edu.